

that's why we're in the lead when it comes to solving the pandemic of HIV/AIDS on the continent of Africa and working to end malaria. These are two achievable objectives. One is to get antiretrovirals into the hands of people who suffer. And American taxpayers have been incredibly generous. And it ought to make you feel good about a country that is willing to say, I see suffering, and I want to help. In other words, we're working on suffering at home, and we ought to work on suffering abroad as well.

I'm asking Congress for \$30 billion. It's double the HIV/AIDS initiative that we've got in place. But let me tell you an interesting statistic. When we first got going on the initiative in 2003, I think it was, 50,000 people were getting antiretrovirals in the countries that we were working in. Today, over 1.2 million people's lives have been saved because of the generosity of the American taxpayer.

And now we're on an initiative to end malaria, or cut it at least in half, in affected countries around the world. Should we be doing that as a country? The answer is, absolutely, we should be. And the reason why is, is that we're a blessed nation. And we've become even doubly blessed by helping others be able to deal with disease and realize the blessings of an Almighty. That's what I believe.

Listen, I got to hop. [*Laughter*] Thanks for your time. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:42 p.m. at the InterContinental Hotel Cleveland. In his remarks, he referred to Frederick R. Nance, chairman of the board of directors, and Joseph D. Roman, president and chief executive officer, Greater Cleveland Partnership; Mayor Frank G. Jackson of Cleveland, OH; Delos M. "Toby" Cosgrove, chief executive officer and chairman of the board of governors, the Cleveland Clinic; Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; and President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan.

Proclamation 8160—Captive Nations Week, 2007

July 10, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Liberty is the path to lasting peace and the unalienable right of every man, woman, and child. During Captive Nations Week, we underscore our commitment to protecting human rights, advancing democracy and freedom, and ending tyranny across the globe.

Expanding freedom is a moral imperative, and today more people are free than ever before. Freedom is reaching around the world, and America is working side-by-side with new democracies in Liberia, Mauritania, Ukraine, Georgia, and Kyrgyzstan. The people of Kuwait held elections in which women were able to vote and run for office for the first time, and the elected parliament is exercising real influence with the government. We continue to stand firmly behind the citizens of Lebanon, Afghanistan, and Iraq as they defend their democratic gains against extremist enemies. Many are making great sacrifices for liberty, and they deserve our steadfast support.

While there is progress in freedom's advance, nations such as Belarus, Burma, Cuba, North Korea, Syria, Iran, Sudan, and Zimbabwe still oppress their citizens. My Administration recently created the Human Rights Defenders Fund to provide grants for the legal defense and medical expenses of democratic dissidents arrested or beaten by repressive governments. In addition, we have nearly doubled funding for democracy projects throughout the world. The American people believe that the flame for freedom burns in every human heart, and that light cannot be extinguished by governments, terrorists, or tyrants. During Captive Nations Week, we remember that human freedom is the key to achieving respect for all human rights.

The Congress, by Joint Resolution approved July 17, 1959 (73 Stat. 212), has authorized and requested the President to issue

a proclamation designating the third week in July of each year as “Captive Nations Week.”

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 15 through 21, 2007, as Captive Nations Week. I call upon the people of the United States to reaffirm our commitment to all those seeking liberty, justice, and self-determination.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this tenth day of July, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:26 a.m., July 11, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 12.

Presidential Determination on Transfer of Economic Support Funds to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation To Establish a Loan Guarantee Program

July 10, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007–26

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Presidential Determination on Transfer of Economic Support Funds to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation to Establish a Loan Guarantee Program

Pursuant to section 579 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2006 (Public Law 109–102)(the “Act”), I hereby determine that it is in furtherance of the purposes of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, that \$5 million in Economic Support Funds appropriated under title II of the Act may be transferred to and merged with the funds appropriated by the Act for the Overseas Private Investment Corporation Program Account, to be subject to the terms and conditions of that account.

You are authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on July 11.

Remarks at a Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for the Renovated James S. Brady Press Briefing Room and an Exchange With Reporters

July 11, 2007

The President. Thank you very much. Yes, thanks. I like a good, short introduction. [Laughter]

Q. [Inaudible]

The President. Yes. [Laughter] After all, it is your room. Yes. [Laughter] Welcome back to the West Wing. We missed you—sort of. [Laughter] I can already tell this place has improved. The last time I was in here to hold a press conference, I broke out into a sweat—not because of your questions but because of the climate. The air-conditioner seems to work well. I hope the facility is—suits your needs. I really do.

The relationship between the President and the press is a unique relationship, and it’s a necessary relationship. I enjoy it. I hope you do. As I say, sometimes you don’t like the decisions I make, and sometimes I don’t like the way you write about the decisions. But nevertheless, it’s a really important part of our process. And the fact that you were working in substandard conditions just wasn’t right. It really wasn’t.

And so my White House worked with Steve and Ann, worked with Mark Smith to get it right. And I think it’s going to benefit future Presidents and future White House press corps, to be working in modern conditions, conditions where a fellow like me will feel comfortable coming in here answering a few questions without losing 20 pounds. [Laughter]

It was really hot in here. As a matter of fact, I can’t imagine how Snow could handle it on a regular basis. But now it’s modern, and it’s going to enable you to do a better job. And I’m glad that’s the case.